BLACKSTAR QUICK START USER MANUAL

1-888-310-VIDEO

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Overview

BLACKSTAR is our state of the art digital video recording and remote surveillance software package for Windows. BLACKSTAR accepts video streams from all major Network (IP) cameras and servers, Frame Grabbers and any Direct Show compatible devices including Webcams and USB cameras. This along with our BLACKSTAR client-server architecture allows you to build fully scalable solutions sizing from a single camera up to thousands of cameras.

BLACKSTAR was designed to primarily be used to:
1. View live video streams from multiple sources locally and remotely, over the Internet.
2. Record video from multiple sources and play them back later locally or remotely
3. Export previously recorded video to preserve it and to present it as evidence.

BLACKSTAR offers a principally new concept for DVR solutions – “One Software/Choice of Hardware”. BLACKSTAR DVR software can be either integrated with supported hardware or acquired from a BLACKSTAR reseller as a part of a complete digital video recording and remote surveillance solution.

BLACKSTAR consists of two major components: DVRServer and DVRClient. The DVR Server is a behind-the-scene application that captures, processes and records video and then serves it to a local or remote DVR Client software. The DVR Client is the application that shows live and recorded video streams from a single DVR Server or multiple DVR Servers; it also allows users to configure and control DVR Server(s).
In order to better suit our customers' needs and budget, BLACKSTAR has 5 editions. These editions range from Personal to Enterprise and each edition varies in the number of allowed cameras, the number of simultaneous remote DVR Client connections as well as other limitations, or lack thereof. However, all of the BLACKSTAR editions have the same user-friendly interface and functionality.

BLACKSTAR DVR Personal Edition is a shareware product, which means you can try it first, and then buy it if you like it.

	Personal	Basic	Professional	Advanced	Enterprise
Maximum Number of Cameras	1	4	9	16	Unlimited
Maximum number of concurrent remote DVR Client connections	1	1	3	5	Unlimited

Chapter 1

BLACKSTAR Terminology

Pane - Panel, window.

Toggle- To alternate between two or more electronic, mechanical, or computer-related options, usually by the operation of a single switch or keystroke.

BLACKSTAR Icons-
Toolbar

Toolbar- The toolbar that you see at the top of your screen gives you various options such as open, save and various screen manipulations, at the click of a button.

Open Configuration- This button on the toolbar allows you to open previous BLACKSTAR configurations. It is most useful if you are exporting configurations from one machine to another.

Save Configuration- This button on the toolbar allows you to save any changes that you have just made to your DVR, it will continue to save to the same file unless you click on *File* and *Save As* then you can save to a different file or even to a floppy.

Structure Pane- This button toggles whether you see or don't see the *structure pane* on the left side of your BLACKSTAR window. The *structure pane* is most useful when you are looking at cameras from multiple locations and multiple BLACKSTAR servers. We will discuss the *structure pane* later on in this chapter.

Events - This button toggles the events window. The events window gives you important notifications such as, when you are connecting to a server successfully. It lets you know if you have input improper user names and passwords and gives you error codes when needed.

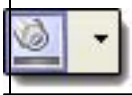
PTZ Control- This button toggles the PTZ control pane. If you do not have a pan-tilt-zoom camera connected to your system then this button does no need to be pressed.

Video amplification- This button toggles the video amplification pane. When this button is pressed a pane will come up from which you will be able to adjust the brightness, contrast, saturation, sharpness, and hue for any camera.

Full Screen- This button toggles full screen mode. In full screen, none of the panes will be seen and the cameras will be expanded to their maximum size to fill the full screen of your monitor.

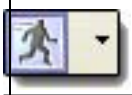
Wizards- The wizard's icon on the toolbar gives you a shortcut to various server, and camera options and configurations. You can also access these features through the right click menus in the software.

Views- These buttons on the toolbar allow you to manipulate your views and camera layouts to your own preference.



Screen Footer- The screen footer button on the toolbar allows you to display various information underneath each camera window. It can display frame rate, time, picture quality, recording, motion detection, and image size. The screen footer is the text below each camera

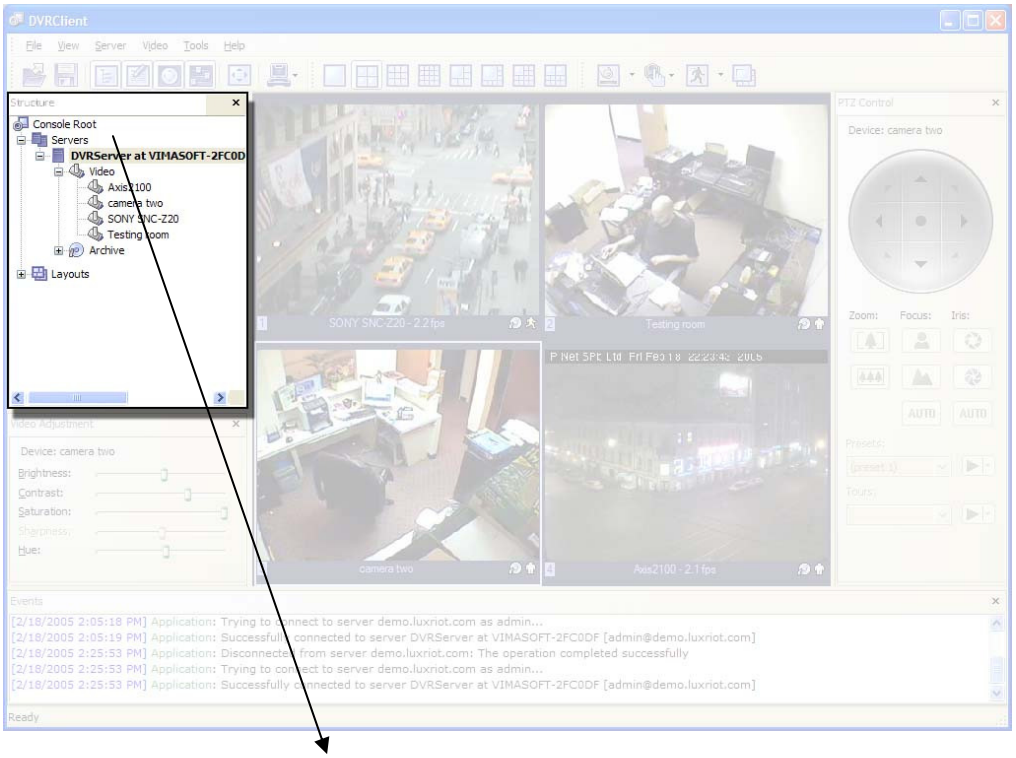
Stream Selection- The stream selection button allows you to pick which camera you would like to view in the selected camera window. This can also be done through the right click menus and by dragging the desired camera from the structure pane to the desired display window, or right click on any camera window and select stream.



Show Motion- The show motion toolbar button toggles whether or not you want the motion outlined on the selected camera screen. Note: Motion detection must be setup before this feature can be activated.

Maximize- When pressed the maximize button puts the selected camera into a single view, if pressed again it will return to the previous view. This can also be accomplished by double clicking on the camera of choice.

Structure Pane



The structure pane is the control center of your DVR. In the structure pane is where you will setup all of your cameras, and DVR's. The structure pane makes it possible for you to manage many DVR servers from one window by right click on the DVR of your choice.

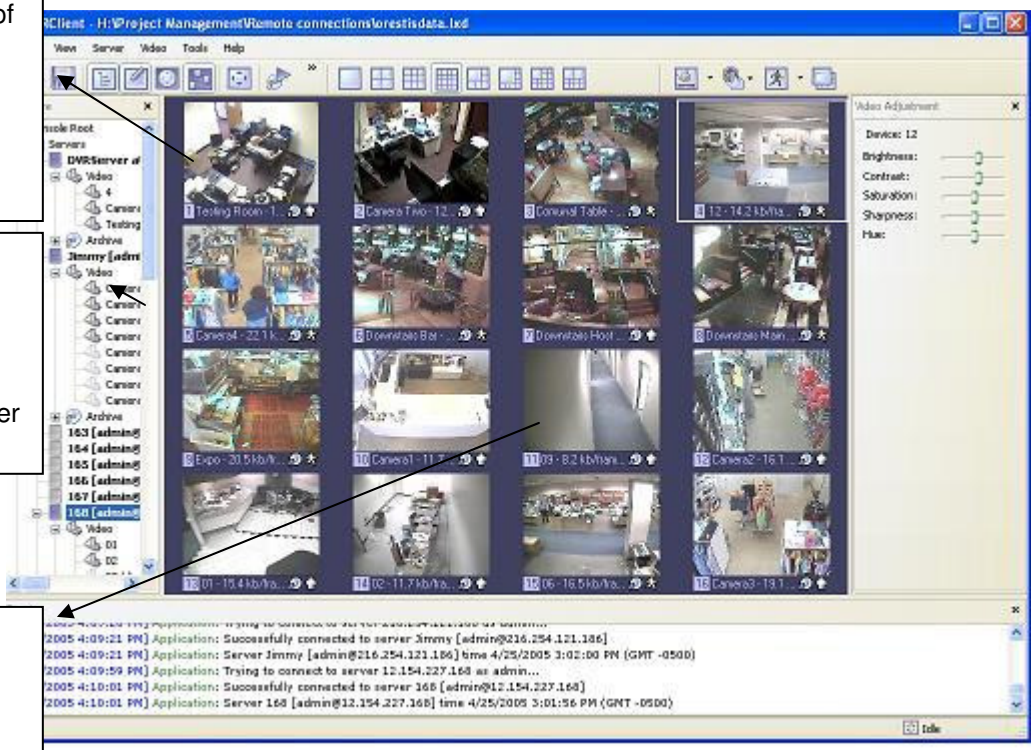
Server

What is BLACKSTAR Server? BLACKSTAR server is the Windows application, which can run as Windows service or Windows tray-application. BLACKSTAR Server grabs video streams from the configured sources, analyzes it for motion, broadcasts it to local (running on the same computer) and remote clients and records it to a local hard drives. BLACKSTAR server is the only application in the BLACKSTAR suite, which requires licensing, which can be activated via software key.

Through Console Root an unlimited number of cameras and servers can be managed, configured, and adjusted, without the need to be at the server site.

Right mouse click on any camera or server to drop down a list of various options like camera setup, recording settings, user management, etc

Right Mouse Click on any camera screen to bring up the archive (playback recorded feed)

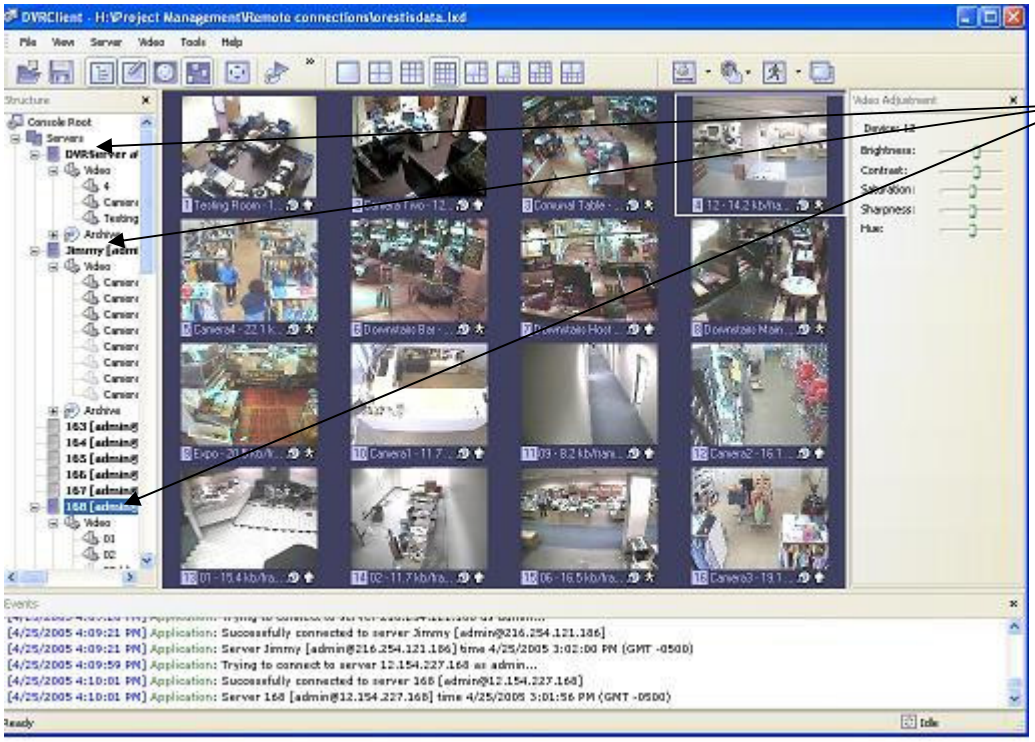

Client - H:\Project Management\Remote connections\orestisdata.lxd
View Server Video Tools Help
Video Adjustment
Device: 12
Brightness:
Contrast:
Saturation:
Sharpness:
Hue:
2005 4:09:21 PM] Application: Successfully connected to server Jimmy [admin@216.254.121.186]
2005 4:09:21 PM] Application: Server Jimmy [admin@216.254.121.186] time 4/25/2005 3:02:00 PM (GMT -0500)
2005 4:09:59 PM] Application: Trying to connect to server 12.154.227.168 as admin...
2005 4:10:01 PM] Application: Successfully connected to server 168 [admin@12.154.227.168]
2005 4:10:01 PM] Application: Server 168 [admin@12.154.227.168] time 4/25/2005 3:01:56 PM (GMT -0500)

Wizards for easy navigation and step-by-step setup to perform configurations and other setup tasks.

Client

What is BLACKSTAR Client? BLACKSTAR Client Application is the component to monitor live and recorded video from several BLACKSTAR servers. Also BLACKSTAR Client is the main tool to manage and configure local and remote BLACKSTAR servers.

The Client component is the control interface of your BLACKSTAR Software is the Interface to control your BLACKSTAR surveillance system. The client is the piece of software that controls every aspect of your server. This software can be installed on the main machine running the server or on any machine that can access the server via TCP/IP. The client application can be used to control and fully administer your server or an unlimited number of servers from any computer connected on the Internet. You never need to go on-site again to make changes to your DVR.

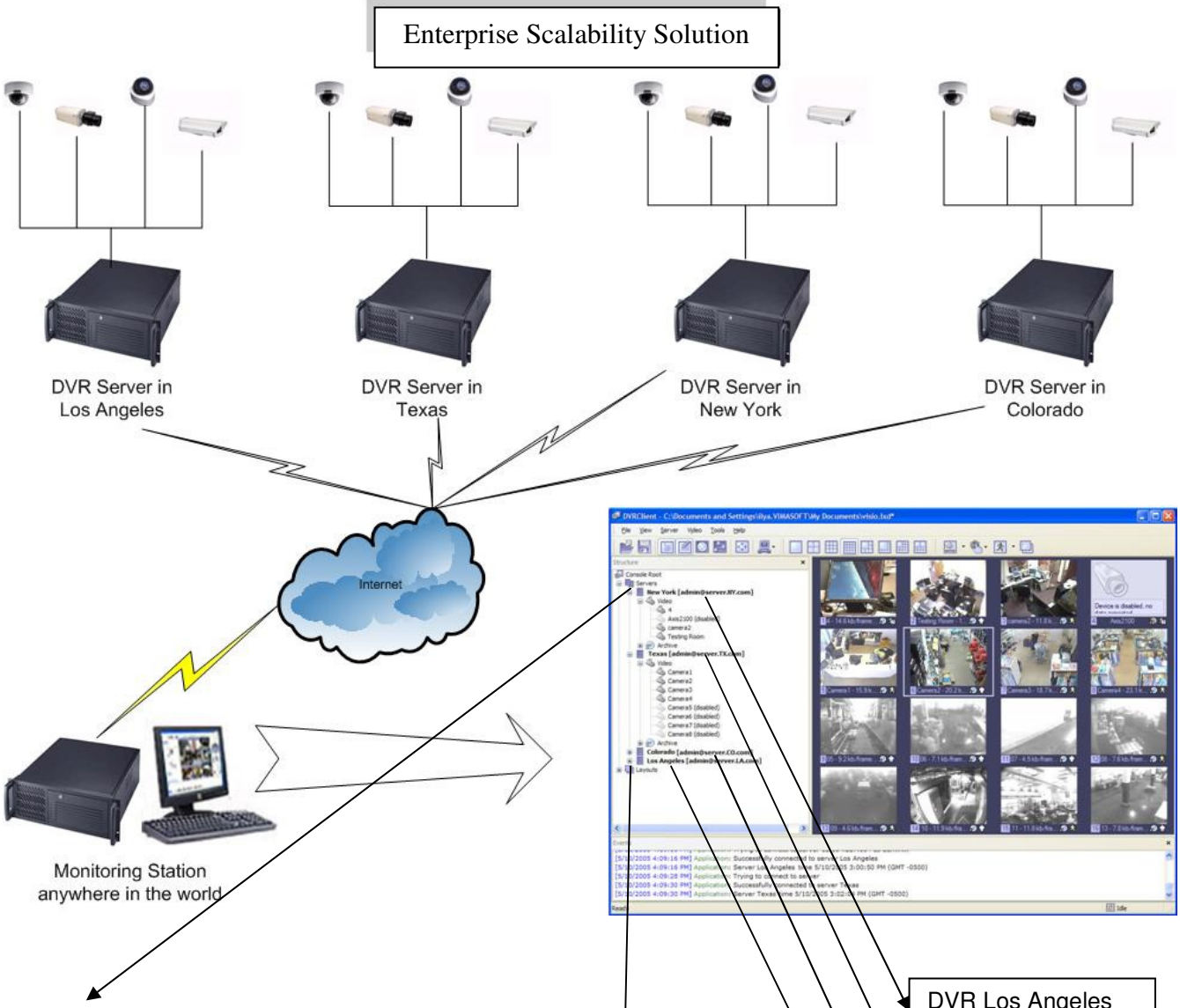


Benefits – Not having to ever be on-site to administer your DVR is a tremendous advantage and one that BLACKSTAR offers. We have revolutionized the DVR world with this application feature enabling full flexibility to the DVR operator. Another advantage to not installing the Client on the Server Site is your DVR is now **Tamper Proof**. Since BLACKSTAR server can run as a Windows service, the server/Computer running the software can be logged out of Windows and have login password protected.

Web Based Remote

The Client Application is of course your main remote viewing option giving you full control of your DVR, all of its recorded video, etc., however; we wanted to give you a web based option as well incase you are ever in need to check on your location and the client software is not an option. For these instances, you can log onto your site using our web application located at http://www.astdigital.com/

Enterprise Scalability and Monitoring



Enterprise Scalability:
Control and fully administer your server or an unlimited number of servers from any computer connected on the Internet with BLACKSTAR client. Engineer not to use any network resources for the open server connections and only use network resources for the cameras you monitor at the given time. Can be connected to unlimited server and control unlimited cameras within those servers.

Layouts: Create custom layouts by grouping cameras from different DVR Servers/Location into groups for more efficient monitoring, and better management.

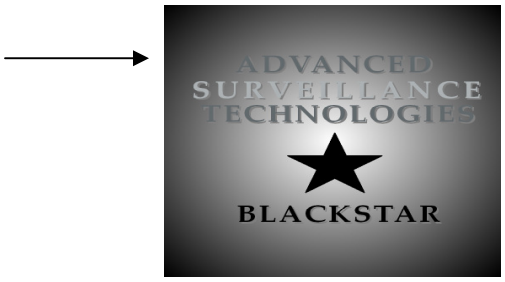
Chapter 2

How to stop and start DVR services

The BLACKSTAR Software if it is setup on service Mode can be stopped by browsing the windows services. Or by using the DVR SERVER WIZARD

Control Server or Servers from your client application.

Double click your BLACKSTAR Client icon from your desktop.



Chapter 3

Submitting A Problem Report-

Manually- if you go to the Help icon, you will see
"Problem Report Wizard"
Click on it and fill in the information requested.
BLACKSTAR greatly appreciates, your efforts and takes all problem reports seriously.
Thank you again for your cooperation.

End of Submitting A Problem Report

Chapter 4

PTZ Control Pane

Click on the this Icon on the main toolbar to get the PTZ control pane

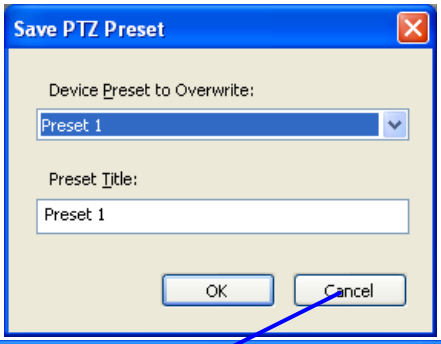
Zoom IN

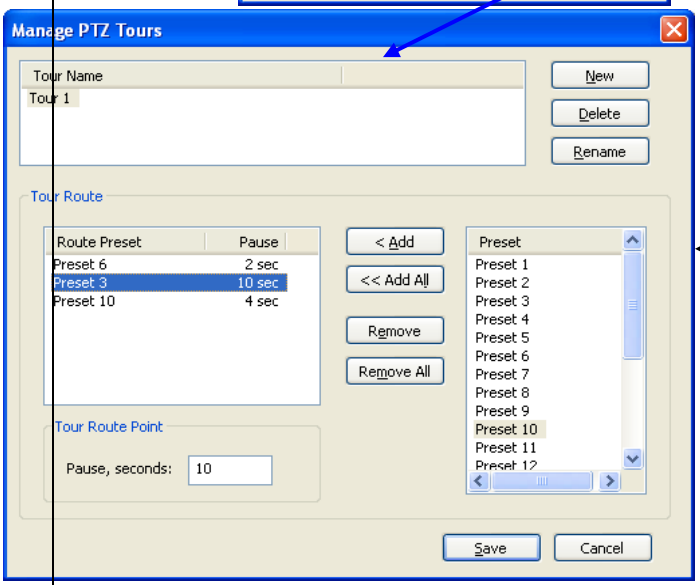
Zoom OUT

Manual and Auto Adjustments for Focus and Iris

Save Presets, and Tours for PTZ Cameras

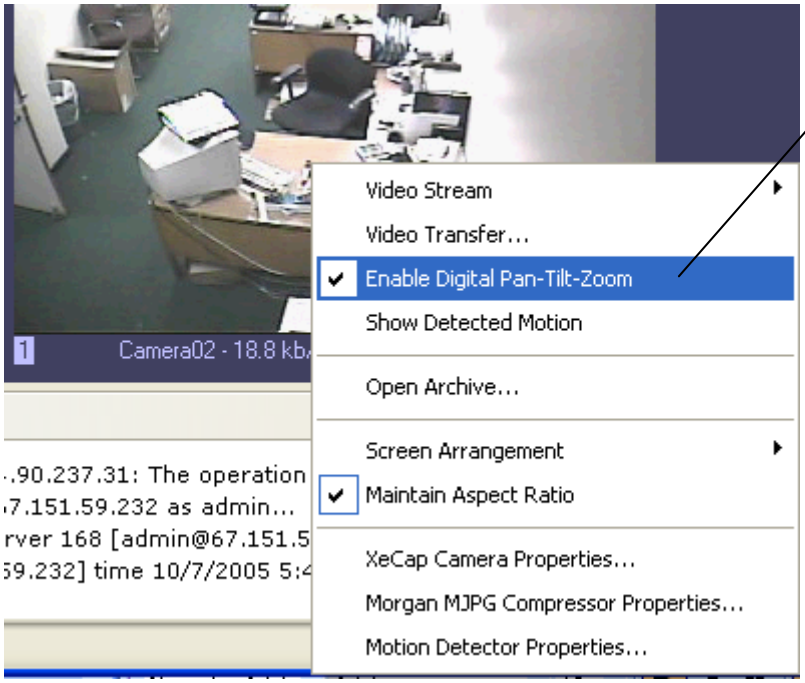
Presets and Tours can be configured from the PTZ control window.





Manage PTZ tours camera by camera by selecting the presets of your choice and time between them.

Digital PAN-Tilt-Zoom on live view



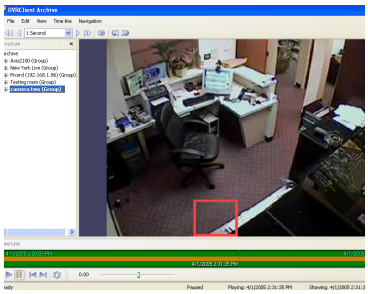
Right-Click on any camera to activate the Digital Pan-Tilt and zoom function.

Then by activating the PTZ control pane live streaming video can be digitally enhance.

Digital PAN-Tilt-Zoom on Playback

To Activate the Digital Pan-Tilt and zoom function on already recorded video just activating the PTZ control pane from the archive window.

Chapter 5



How to Playback Video-
To playback recorder video
Right click on your server name
Choose tasks
Open archive

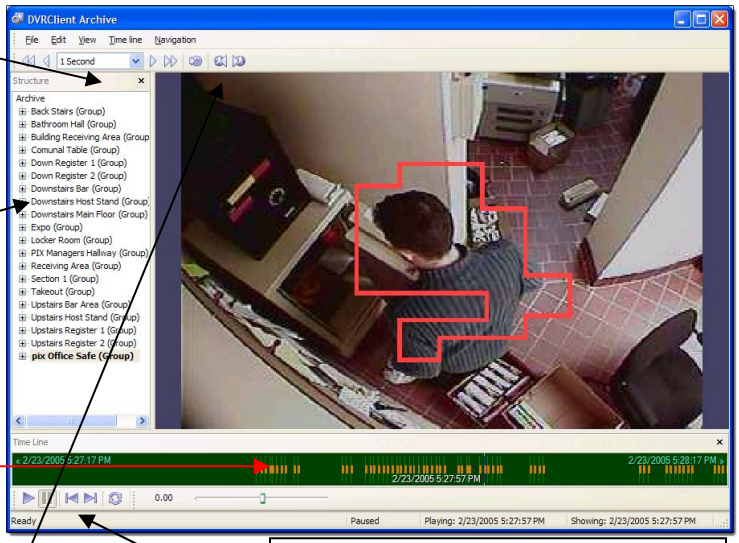
You can also

Right click on any camera view and
Choose open archive

Your archive pane will now open

Playback Window Structure-

Now that you are in the playback screen, the structure pane on the left
lists all of the cameras that you have recordings for

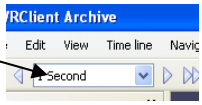


To Navigate through the Video -
Double click on the camera you wish to playback (This camera will now appear with footage on the video screen)

The solid **green line** on the bottom represents time. The **light green lines** represent recorded video. The **orange lines** represent motion information.

There are basic VCR controls on the bottom of the playback screen, which you can use to play, pause, forward, and rewind.

Fast forward & Rewind
You have a jog dial on the bottom of the screen, which you can drag in either direction to browse through your video in high speeds.
Another way to fast forward is to use the arrow controls on top of the screen in which you can define how many increments of time you would like to move through the video.



Playback Motion Only-

Located at the top of your Archive Pane, there are two buttons that allow you to seek video with actual motion in return saving you time.

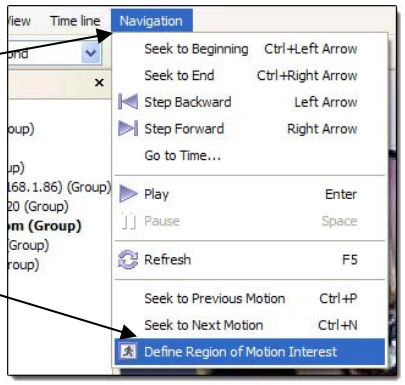
With the camera you wish to review selected and showing in your video screen
Choose either "seek previous motion" or "seek next motion"

Smart Search-

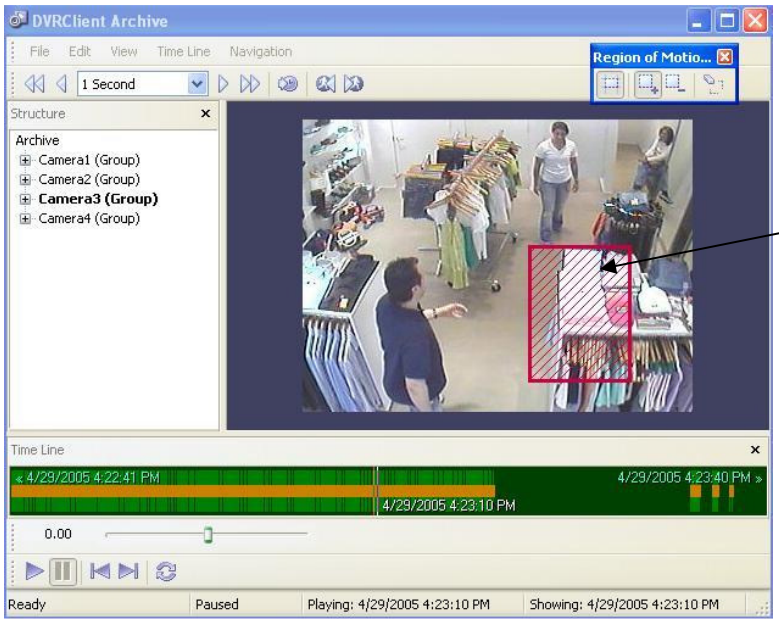
You can also search through video not only by motion in the screen, but also by ***motion in a specific part of your camera screen***. Through BLACKSTAR'S playback screen, you can define a specific object in your view, or define a path, and seek through motion only in that specific region. This process is very commonly referred to as "smart search".

Define motion of interest –

Click on the navigation menu at the top of the playback screen



Click on "Define region of motion interest".



While having the left button continuously pressed, drag the mouse over the area you would like to see motion in (This will create a grid in that area). You can also select multiple regions.

Click on "seek to previous motion" or "seek to next motion" to search through motion in the defined area or areas.

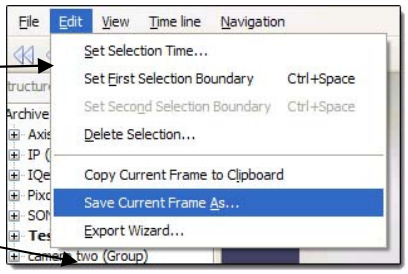
End of Playback Video

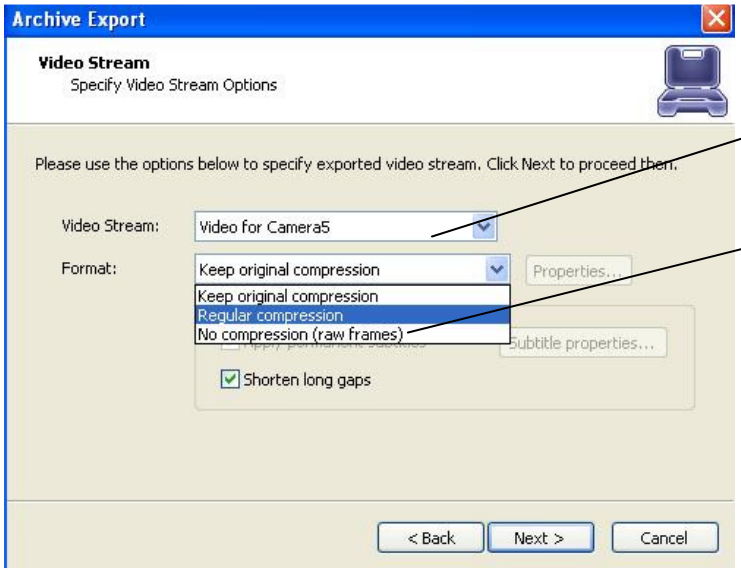
Export Video-

To export video, you first have to select the section of recordings that you want to export to a different location (This will also prevent it from getting overwritten). To select video

Click on Edit at the top of the playback screen

Click on Export Wizard

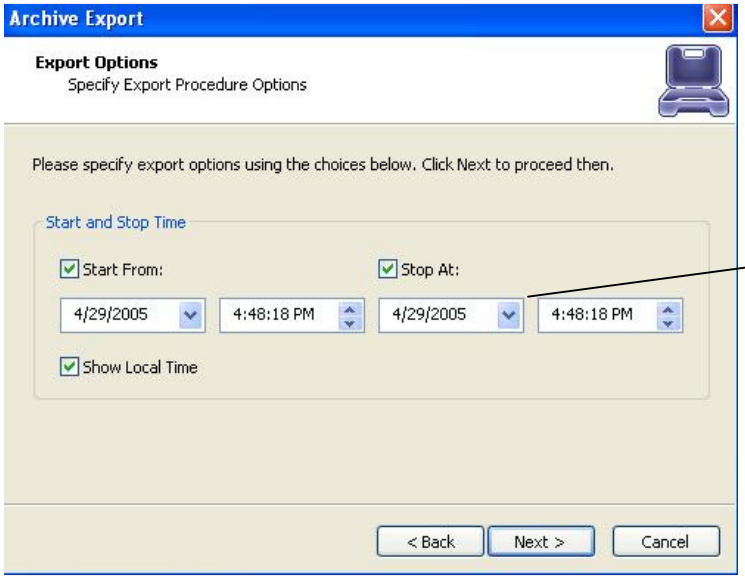




Choose which camera to export.

Choose compression.

Click next.



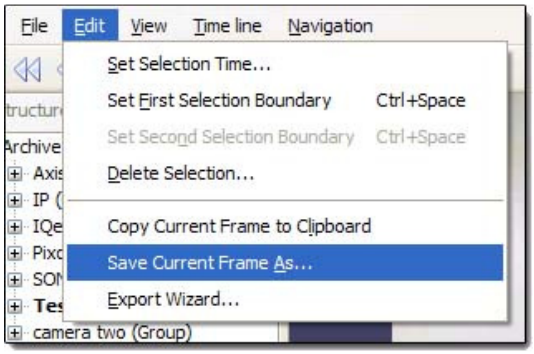
Select the start and finish times of the video clip that you want to export.

The Wizard will guide to the next step for you do designate to which drive or folder to save the export video.
Note: To play back the BLACKSTAR AVI file, a codec (a small executable file) will have to be installed in order for your media player to recognize the BLACKSTAR video file. The codec can be downloaded from http://www.astdigital.com/

Export Snapshots.

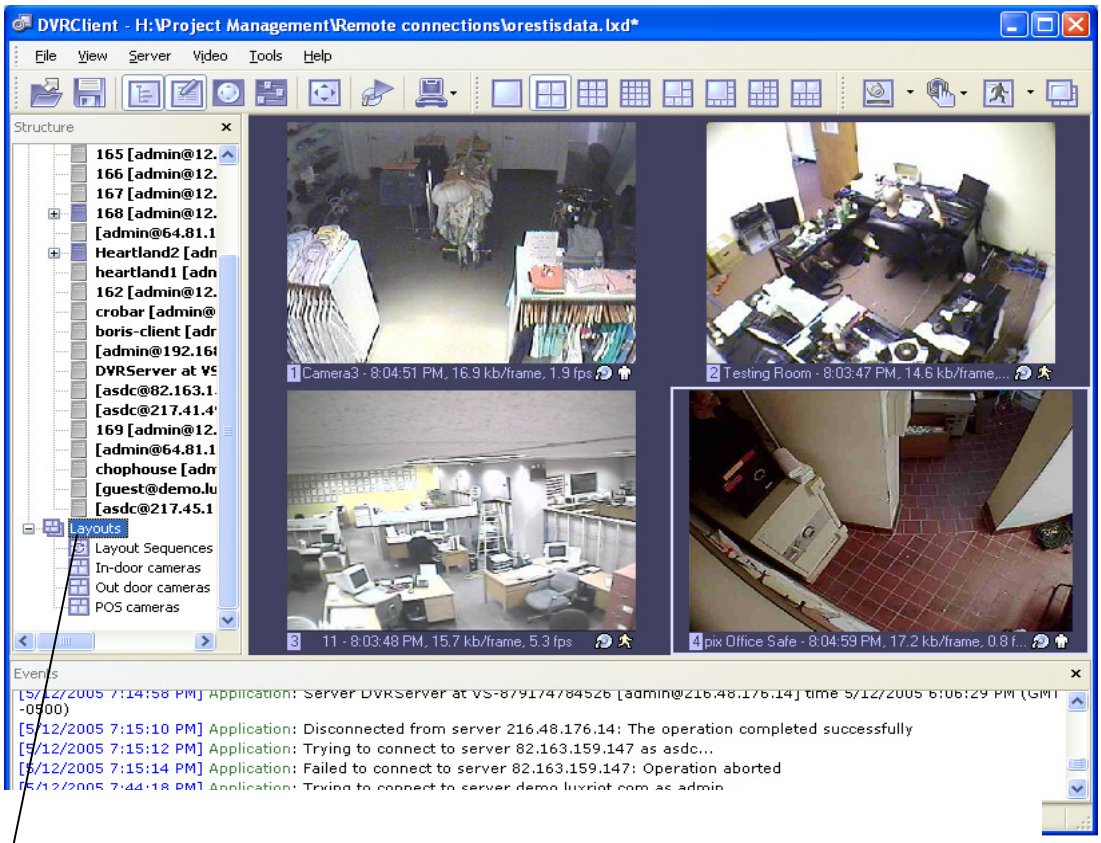
Another way to export video is to save one frame at a time, like a snapshot.

First pause the video on the picture that you would like to copy,
Click on edit
Choose “save current frame as…”
Pick a location and filename for your image and
Click save.

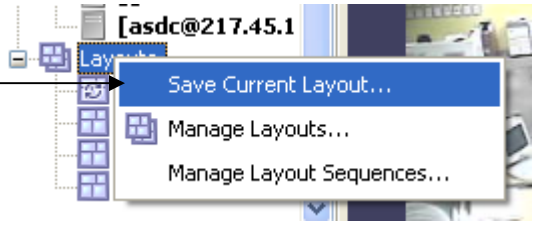


Now you will have the image stored so that you can print, e-mail, or enhance that snapshot.

End of Export Video


DVRClient - H:\Project Management\Remote connections\orestisdata.lxd*
File View Server Video Tools Help
Structure
Layouts
Layout Sequences
In-door cameras
Out door cameras
POS cameras
1 Camera3 - 8:04:51 PM, 16.9 kb/frame, 1.9 fps
2 Testing Room - 8:03:47 PM, 14.6 kb/frame,...
3 11 - 8:03:48 PM, 15.7 kb/frame, 5.3 fps
4 pix Office Safe - 8:04:59 PM, 17.2 kb/frame, 0.8 f...
Events
[5/12/2005 7:15:10 PM] Application: Disconnected from server 216.48.176.14: The operation completed successfully
[5/12/2005 7:15:12 PM] Application: Trying to connect to server 82.163.159.147 as asdc...
[5/12/2005 7:15:14 PM] Application: Failed to connect to server 82.163.159.147: Operation aborted

Create custom Layouts by grouping cameras from different DVR Servers/Locations into groups for more efficient monitoring, and better management.
For example group together all out-door cameras from different location or all POS cameras from all registers.

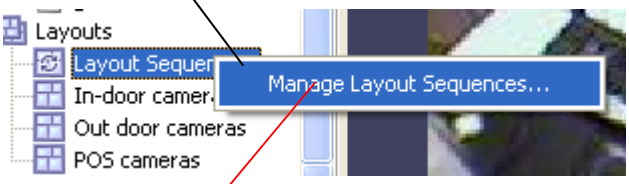


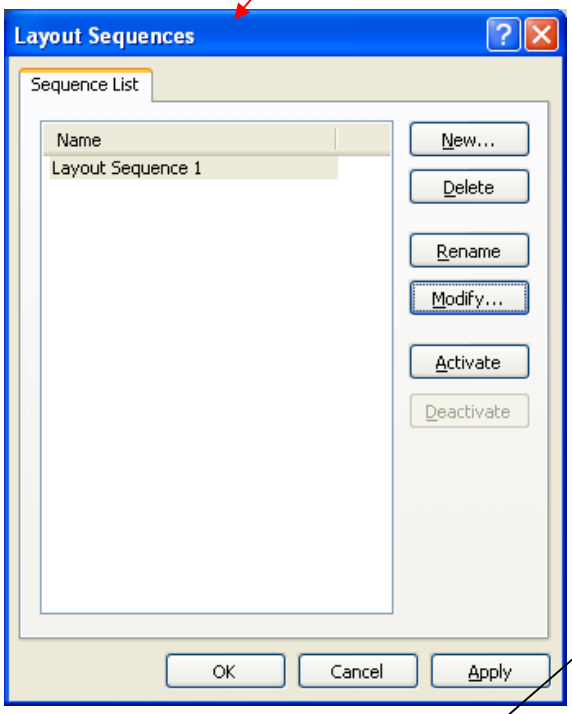
Individual Layouts can be activated by double-click on them with the mouse.

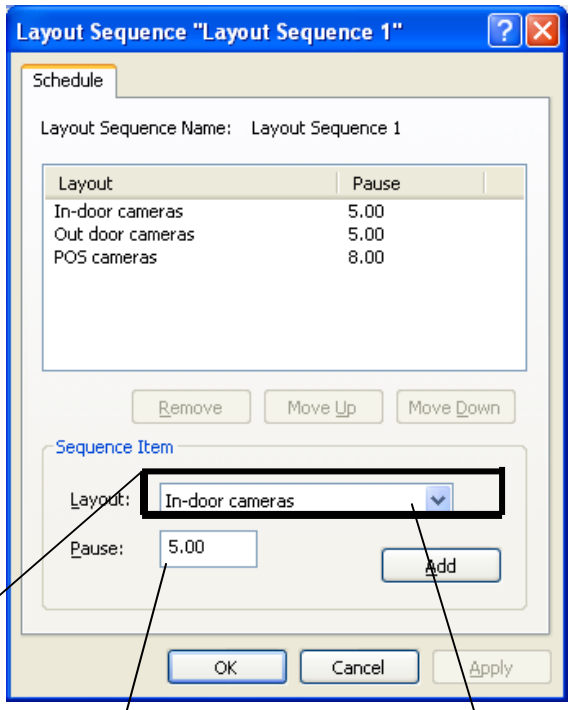
Users now can perform playback and other function by Right-click on the camera of their interest.

Layout Sequences

When Layouts are created, they can be used for Sequencing.
To create Sequences Right mouse click on Layout Sequences.







Set time interval between layouts

Choose given Layouts for adding them in a sequence.

Manage priority or remove layouts of your choice.

Enter Notes Here-

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Additional References:

For Your Records

Dealer Name:

Dealer Address:

Date Of Purchase:

Purchase Location:

Software Activation Key:

Dates Software Last Upgraded:

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
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BLACKSTAR http://www.astdigital.com/